

# strong collaborations

Sustainable development is increasingly being integrated at all levels in most universities and University of Copenhagen (UCPH) is no exception. The University recognises that academic skills and strong collaboration between disciplines are prerequisites for UCPH to contribute to sustainable development, locally as well as globally. UCPH acknowledges its responsibility to contribute to global achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

## Activities

The SSC provides physical as well as virtual platforms where researchers and students from different disciplines, as well as members of the general public and decision-makers from both private and public sectors, can meet to address issues relating to sustainable development.

### Activities include:

- Sustainability Lecture Series – join in person or virtually via #SustainTalk. Recordings of the lectures can be found online
- Summer course on the implementation of the SDGs via Copenhagen Summer University
- Development of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs)
- Student activities
- Activities at the UCPH Spring Festival
- Debate evenings (in Danish) entitled “Jorden kalder” (“The Earth is calling”) in collaboration with the Natural History Museum of Denmark.

## Join our network

Add your name to our mailing list or follow us on social media to receive news and events related to sustainability at the University of Copenhagen.

[www.sustainability.ku.dk](http://www.sustainability.ku.dk)  
[sustainability@science.ku.dk](mailto:sustainability@science.ku.dk)

 @Sustain\_UCPH  
 [Facebook.com/SustainUCPH](https://www.facebook.com/SustainUCPH)

More information: [sustainability.ku.dk](http://sustainability.ku.dk)

UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN



# Sustainability Science Centre

## Academic skills and

Everyone has a role to play in society's pursuit of sustainable development. One of the most important – and rewarding – functions of the Sustainability Science Centre (SSC) is bringing people from all parts of Danish society together to learn about and discuss sustainability issues.





## Sustainability Science Centre

The understanding that only a sustainable development trajectory will lead to lasting societal well-being is rapidly gaining ground. This gives rise to new expectations both with regard to the types of knowledge being generated at universities and the competences of university graduates. To address some of these challenges, UCPH established the SSC in 2012. The SSC is led by Professor Katherine Richardson and its steering committee is made up of representatives appointed by the deans of all faculties.

## Solutions to Global Challenges at university level

The university is pursuing a Green Campus strategy designed to make UCPH one of the world's most sustainable universities. Significant outcomes have already been achieved on energy efficiency and CO2-reduction. UCPH is actively including and addressing climate change and other major sustainability challenges in both its education and research activities, not least through collaboration in the International Alliance of Research Universities (IARU).

## Networks for knowledge

The UN Sustainable Development Goals provide a global and transdisciplinary vision for a sustainable global society. At UCPH, research and education are organised in faculties that all carry out activities relevant for sustainable development. Through workshops and seminars, the SSC provides a platform for developing and cultivating synergies between research and teaching activities in different parts of the university. Furthermore, the Centre provides a gateway for members of society and stakeholders outside the university to access the breadth of competences relevant to sustainable development found at the University.

The SSC is the UCPH point of contact for the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) and the UN Global Compact initiative. Via the SSC, the University of Copenhagen has taken a leading role in coordinating Danish participation in the SDSN and in forming part of the Nordic node (SDSN-NE), thereby strengthening the international research network in sustainability research.

The Centre offers access to the many competences found at the University of Copenhagen and invites you to contact us for research purposes or to seek strategic partnerships.



## Choose your sustainable studies at UCPH

The SSC addresses the increasing interest in sustainability among students through different interdisciplinary activities and an online database available at [www.sustainability.ku.dk/studies](http://www.sustainability.ku.dk/studies). Here, you can see, for example, which UCPH courses relate to the SDGs.

On the site, you can also find information about two master-level courses developed in collaboration between the SSC, Copenhagen Business School and the Technical University of Denmark. These courses focus on sustainable development challenges and the intention is that students develop a systemic understanding of sustainability challenges. Both courses are open to students from all three universities.

## Combining research from different disciplines

A novel feature of the SDGs, in comparison to earlier UN agreements, is that they take a “systems approach.” In other words, they do not simply address one challenge such as climate or biodiversity. Instead, the SDGs provide a global, transdisciplinary vision for how we would like the world – as a whole – to look in the future. The SDGs can be seen as a vision for how we want the Earth's resources to be shared among all of its inhabitants in 2030. This changes the framework for development research. It is no longer sufficient, for example, to do research aimed at increasing food production. Such research needs to focus on maximising food production while minimising resource use and the impact on climate and biodiversity.

Thus, research supporting sustainable development necessitates collaboration that transgresses traditional academic borders. Universities must therefore develop new approaches to teaching, research and communication in order to encourage collaborations both within and outside of the academic sphere. The purpose of the SSC is to facilitate the development of these types of collaboration.

